



*Federal Bureau of Investigation
Phoenix, Arizona*



*United States Attorney's Office
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

FOUR MEN & ONE WOMAN INDICTED FOR MURDER AND KIDNAPPING CHARGES

PHOENIX - The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Phoenix Division, announced that on July 20, 2005 a federal grand jury indicted five men and one woman allegedly involved in the kidnapping and murder of Martha Bones on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Jeremy Wayne Hoffman, 21; Carlton James, 24; Alvin Wayne Johnson, 22; and Gallason Cheney, 24, all of the White River, Ariz. area, and Blanca Gonzales, 28, were each charged with four counts of First Degree Murder, Felony Murder and First Degree Kidnapping, Kidnapping, and Conspiracy to Commit Murder.

All the defendants are in federal custody and are scheduled to appear today at 10:00 a.m. in federal court in Flagstaff, Ariz. for a detention hearing in front of Magistrate Judge Mark Aspey.

The indictment alleges that on July 02, 2005, the defendants conspired together to kidnap and murder Bones and did so by beating and kicking her with steel-toed boots then strangling her to death with a belt. Bones' body was recovered by law enforcement from a shallow grave on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

This joint investigation was conducted by the FBI, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the White Mountain Apache Tribal Police and members of the Fort Apache Safe Trails Task Force. The Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Navajo County Sheriff's Office, and DEA were instrumental in locating and apprehending these individuals. FBI Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Jana D. Monroe emphasized her appreciation to all the agencies working together in this investigation. SAC Monroe stated that "the hard work and cooperation among all of the agencies were instrumental in bringing these individuals to justice." U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton added that "this type of cooperation with law enforcement resources is crucial to prosecuting violent criminals and bringing some sense of peace to the victims' families."

Each count of the indictment carries a maximum sentence of up to life in prison plus possible fines of \$250,000 or both. In determining an actual sentence, the assigned federal judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The prosecution is being handled by Vincent Kirby, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-0729-PCT
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